



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/714,756	11/16/2000	Lorin Evan Ullmann	AUS9-2000-0707-US1	5037

7590 01/28/2004  
Robert H Frantz  
PO Box 23324  
Oklahoma City, OK 73123-2334

EXAMINER
----------

SIDDIQI, MOHAMMAD A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2154

DATE MAILED: 01/28/2004

3

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/714,756

Applicant(s)

ULLMANN ET AL.

Examiner

Mohammad A Siddiqi

Art Unit

2126

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 November 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11/16/00 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-27 are presented for examination.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

3. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Birrell et al. (6185551) (hereinafter Birrell).

4. As per claims 1, 10, and 19, Birrell discloses a method for creating thread-of-discussion electronic mail messages for chained electronic mail messages in an electronic mail system (figure 4), said method comprising the steps of:

parsing text (col 7, lines 24-30) of a chained electronic mail message (col 11, lines 30-33) into discussion entries (figure 5), said parsing being

performed by finding delimiters and message segment indicators (col 7, lines 39-55) within the text of the chained electronic mail message (col 11, lines 30-33);

    sorting said discussion entries into a preferred order (col 11, lines 24-30);

    reducing the discussion entries (col 7, lines 9-14) to discussion information by eliminating redundant and unnecessary information from said discussion entries (col 7, lines 9-20); and

    outputting (col 9, lines 25) the sorted (col 11, lines 24-30), reduced discussion entries (col 7, lines 9-14) into a thread-of-discussion message format (col 12, lines 15-24).

5. As per claims 2, 11, and 20, Birrell discloses step of parsing the text of a chained electronic mail message into discussion entries comprises parsing a Simple Mail Transfer Protocol message (col 1, lines 39 -40).

6. As per claims 3, 12, and 21, Birrell discloses step of parsing the text of a chained electronic mail message (col 7, lines 24-30) into discussion entries (figure 5) comprises parsing a Hyper Text Markup Language message (col 2, lines 60-65).

7. As per claims 4, 13, and 22, Birrell discloses wherein said step of sorting said discussion entries into a preferred order comprises sorting the discussion entries into a first-to-last order based upon timestamps associated with the discussion entries (col 11, lines 24-30).

8. As per claims 5, 14, and 23, Birrell discloses wherein said step of sorting said discussion entries into a preferred order comprises sorting the discussion entries into a last-to-first order based upon timestamps associated with the discussion entries (col 11, lines 24-30).

9. As per claims 6 and 15, Birrell discloses step of reducing the discussion entries to discussion information comprises removing extraneous non-discussion field and formatting information from the discussion entries (col 7, lines 9-20).

10. As per claims 7, 16, and 25, Birrell discloses step of outputting the sorted, reduced discussion entries into a thread-of-discussion message format further comprises replacing full electronic mail addresses for authors of said discussion entries with short names or abbreviations associated with the full electronic mail addresses (col 10, lines 33-44).

11. As per claims 8, 17, and 26, Birrell discloses of merging text from a chained electronic mail message with text from other chained electronic messages associated with a common chain group (col 7, lines 9-20).

12. As per claims 9 and 18, Birrell discloses further comprising a step of automatically addressing a new electronic mail message to one or more of members of an associated chain group (col 1, lines 31-33), said new electronic mail message containing said sorted (col 11, lines 24-30), reduced discussion entries in a thread-of-discussion format (col 11, lines 35-40).

13. As per claim 24, Birrell discloses message output creator further comprises a short name label creator (col 8, lines 34-41) for substituting full electronic mail addresses associated with said discussion entries with short names associated with said full electronic mail addresses (col 10, lines 33-55).

14. As per claim 27, Birrell discloses said message output creator further comprises and automatic message address generator for automatically addressing a new electronic message to one or more members of a chain group (col 10, lines 33-55).

***Conclusion***

15. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

U.S. Patent 6,332,154 to Beck et al.

U.S. Patent 6,633,630 to Owens et al.

U.S. Patent 6,606,647 to Shah et al.

U.S. Patent 6,604,132 to Hitt et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohammad A Siddiqi whose telephone number is (703) 305-0353. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A Follansbee can be reached on (703) 305-8498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 306-5404.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Application/Control Number: 09/714,756  
Art Unit: 2126

Page 7

MAS



JOHN FOLLANSBEE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100